



16 Jan. 1964

Dr. McMellon directed that full briefing  
be arranged re "static discharge problem  
in the COR/MOR cameras" + efforts to  
correct problems. To be held at Greer's place  
at El Segundo -

Att - X Ref. NPIC

NRO review(s) completed.

**SECRET**

**D R A F T**

**PROGRAM B CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO SOLVING THE CORONA MARKING PROBLEM**

1. Background: In July 1962, a static discharge became evident from examination of flight results at NPIC. Until this point in time, the few minor evidences of degradation were thought to be light leaks or pressure marks. Since this date, the problem has come and gone at various times and to varying degrees of intensity. Primary action to correct the overall problem was taken through joint action of the CCB and continuous testing and a series of fixes made by the contractors.

2. Program B Management Contributions:

a. A format was established by Program B for an initial evaluation for the community on each mission. This is sent by wire from E. K. and prepared on the spot by the NPIC Team Captain (who is sent TDY to E. K. for each mission). This preliminary evaluation is the first indication of mission success.

b. Clearances and facilities were arranged through Program B for the CCB and certain key personnel from the contractors concerned to review all photography as soon as it arrived at NPIC so that problems could be evaluated and corrective action initiated, as required. NPIC has continued to assist in the mission by mission photo evaluation effort since the first recovery.

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25X1 c. [ ] and [ ] have represented Program B management on the CCB on a continuing basis. They have worked in conjunction with CCB members from SSD and NRO on a continuous product improvement program.

d. Program B also assigned Lt. Col. Webb to LMSC in a liaison capacity on a full time basis to assist in the operational and technical areas, as required.

e. Program B called in consultants on a number of occasions to give technical assistance on the CORONA marking problem. These included Dr. Purcell, Mr. Wm. McFadden, and more recently, the Drell Committee.

3. Summary of Problems and Solutions: The corona marking phenomenon has been resolved, temporarily, on several occasions only to appear again. It has become obvious that the operation conditions in flight are extremely marginal and that the most practical solution is to pressurize the system in order to have the internal environment above the danger zone during photography. The only point in question is how much pressure and where applied. This is under study. Naturally, we should continue the study of the basic phenomenon and attempt to eliminate this degrading static at the source, but in the interest of providing this national intelligence product on an uninterrupted basis, this cannot be a delay factor in mission schedules.